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students of politics, government, and economics. Mr. Hemmeon gives us the early history of the Post-Office with a wealth of detail that speaks well for his thoroughness and industry, but he does not deal with the telegraph, the telephone, the civil service, and other modern problems of the Post-Office in such a way as to make his book of the largest possible service. A student of American postal problems, for example, would not gain a great deal by reading this work.

J. P. BRETZ.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The Stone Age in North America. An Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Implements, Ornaments, Weapons, Utensils, etc., of the Prehistoric Tribes of North America, with more than Three Hundred Full-Page Plates and Four Hundred Figures illustrating over Four Thousand Different Objects. By WARREN K. MOOREHEAD, A.M., Curator of the Department of American Archaeology, Phillips Academy. In two volumes. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1910. Pp. xii, 457; vi, 417.)

It is rather difficult to review these volumes with absolute justice, for the author has, unfortunately, tied up his long and varied experience as an archaeologist in the field with a special theory of the nature and the significance of "prehistoric" remains in North America, a theory which he several times pushes beyond all reasonable limits. On page 7 of volume I. he speaks of the unfortunate "tendency to explain much of prehistoric times through knowledge of tribes whose customs are more or less saturated with white man's influence", and he censures the labors of the investigators represented in the *Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico*, recently published by the Bureau of American Ethnology, for having "led many to consider prehistoric life in America as nearly the same as the life of our Indians for the past one or two centuries" (p. 2). He says, again (pp. 4, 6), that the *Jesuit Relations* show "a great gulf between the aborigines of long ago and the Indians of the present", going so far, at times, as to recognize pre-Indian forms of culture—such, *e. g.*, would seem to be "the strangest culture . . . in America . . . that of the cave region of the Ozark Mountains" (II. 361). This "gulf" between the Indians of to-day and the "prehistoric" aborigines he emphasizes further elsewhere by maintaining (*American Anthropologist*, new series, XIII. 494, 1911) that "the bulk of implements and works in this country are not known to existing tribes, or were not known to the tribes of the past two centuries", and that "the earthworks of the Ohio valley cannot be explained by a study of any historic tribes of which we have knowledge, neither can the remarkable objects and altars found in the Scioto valley be so explained".

While he does right in calling attention to the effects of the contact

with the white man upon American Indian culture in general and in particular, and, in pointing out the necessity of "seeking to find primitive man untouched by civilization", he is hardly justified in constantly minimizing, as he does in all regards, the primitiveness still attaching, in certain regions of America, to the art and folk-lore, the religion and daily life, of the aborigines. It is a somewhat dangerous comparison to state (II. 355) that all is changed as the Renaissance changed art in Europe. So far as present evidence goes, there is really no proof whatever of a pre-Indian physical type, or of a pre-Indian culture, in North America. Nor, after abstraction has been made of the influences of European contact, can any case be made out for a "gulf" between historic and prehistoric man on this continent; such differences of culture only are recognizable as naturally arose from environmental causes, historical experience, etc., differences entirely comparable to those which may be observed in any large area so long in the possession of one and the same variety of mankind. One must, therefore, take with reserve, inferences drawn from the author's belief (I. 10) that most of the stone objects considered by him to represent the "prehistoric" aborigines of North America were "in use long before Columbus discovered America". Just as he blames "those museum men who collect and study modern material more than the prehistoric" for not having "a clear perspective of the past in this country", he is open to criticism himself for not having "a clear perspective" of the present and the immediate past.

Nevertheless, as one whose boyhood's days were spent in the archaeological environment of Greene County, Ohio, and who has behind him twenty-five years' study of the artifacts treated of in this work, his attempt to classify them must be conceded to be that of an expert, even though he chooses a classification "based on archaeological evidence alone". In his descriptions of the very numerous implements, weapons, ornaments, miscellaneous and problematical objects, of which so many are figured (sometimes in illustrations of great beauty) in these two volumes, he quotes freely from both printed and manuscript essays and studies of such authorities as Holmes, Mason, Wilson, McGuire, Brown, Rust, Kroeber, Carr, Perkins, Sellars, Moore, Meredith, Fowke, etc., and, in addition, he has had the consultative assistance of some of these together with that in particular of Professor Charles Peabody. Some of the special opinions advanced as to the origin and significance of certain objects are the following: many objects called drills are rather "hair-pins", "cloak-fasteners", and the like (I. 210); there seems to have been no real purpose for certain stone objects (*e. g.*, huge axes, swords, etc.), which could only have been connected in some way with sacred mysteries, etc. (II. 365); "among our American aborigines the finest art existed previous to contact with European civilization", and "the finest sculptures on exhibition in our museums come from sites which appear to be prehistoric" (II. 67); pottery is a sort of "barometer

of culture", and "there is no real potter's art north of the Ohio River or east of the Wabash" (II. 248); some of the shell-mounds of Florida are so old that they may well have been in use "before the discovery and utilization of pottery by the aborigines", etc.

Professor Moorehead seems too credulous toward some of the finds in certain mounds and "prehistoric" sites—at least his citation of the Piqua tablets (I. 350) would tend to give that impression. An interesting and suggestive section of the work is that part of volume II. devoted to the consideration of ancient culture-groups, etc., and the development of local cultures, although the author is, perhaps, too generous in his recognition of these, his criteria of distinction being in some cases rather indefensible. The Iroquoian culture he considers "plainly different from anything else on the American continent" (II. 358), and he detects in it signs of European influence, believing, moreover, that "as to antiquity it is not in the same class with other objects found in America", five or six centuries being a period sufficient to account for its production. An exotic origin for certain features of Iroquoian culture has been argued by Boyle, Boas, etc., on ethnological grounds.

An antiquity of man in America as great as that in Europe or Asia is thought possible (I. 34), and the author believes that, "all considered, the population in North America . . . must have been considerable during two or three thousand years" (II. 348), while the investigations made in the Trenton gravels show that "man lived in the Delaware Valley three or four thousands of years ago" (p. 359). A bibliography (arranged alphabetically by subjects), occupying pages 369-408 of volume II., a list of the publications of Professor Moorehead (pp. 408-410), and a good index (pp. 411-417, two columns to the page) complete the work.

ALEXANDER F. CHAMBERLAIN.

Guide to the Manuscript Materials relating to American History in the German State Archives. By MARION DEXTER LEARNED. (Washington: The Carnegie Institution of Washington. 1912. Pp. vii, 352.)

SIMILAR guides to the archives of England, Spain, and Italy have preceded; the present volume surveys the manuscript sources for American history accessible in Germany. The problem before the investigator was, within limited time, to calendar the documents throughout the German Empire which would most abundantly provide material relating to American history. He therefore confined his search to the archives best organized and administered, *viz.*, the German state archives, some fifty or more in number, and certain municipal and local archives known to contain important materials, *viz.*, Frankfort-on-the-Main, Cologne, Mannheim, Karlsruhe, Herrnhut, and Neuwied. The archives of each of the states composing the German Empire were carefully examined, including the imperial domain of Alsace-Lorraine and the Hansa cities,